Wheat supplied to Iraq

†2586. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat was to be supplied from India to Iraq, if so, the quantity thereof and the quantity of wheat which has been already supplied to Iraq so far;

(b) whether Iraq has rejected the wheat, if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government would utilise the wheat which has been sent back and whether any financial loss has been incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A quantity of 3.5 lakh MTs of wheat was contracted with the Grain Board of Iraq. Iraq has rejected to total quantity of 74.018 MT shipped. Quality specifications prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. There was no further break-up of this 2% into organic and inorganic foreign matter. As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of reorganic matter, such as, chaff, weed seeds, other edible and non-edible grains, etc. and the balance (0.5%) inorganic foreign matter, such as, stones, dust etc. The Iraqi authorities however, do not count sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles etc. under foreign matter. The exporters did not know this position. The presumed that, as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include 0.5% in organic matter. Iraqi flour mills do not have adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions.

(c) The consignments were reportedly diverted by the exporters to other destinations in Middle East where the buyers accepted the same. No financial loss has been incurred by the Government.

Reflxation of prices of PDS wheat and rice

2587. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and also during the period from the Ist April to 30th June, 2001; and

(b) whether Government intend to refix the prices of wheat and rice distributed through the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The quantities of rice and wheat lifted by States/UTs under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02 (upto June, 2001) are as under:—

(Fig. In lakh tones)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Total*
1998-99	78.24	106.21	184.45
1999-2000	56.18	111.89	168.07
2000-01	38.44	76.34	114.78
2001-02 (Upto June, 2001)	8.87	17.83	26.70

*(Provisional)

(b) The Government has revised the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of rice and wheat for above poverty line (APL) category with effect from 12.7.2001 as under:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	C.I.Ps	
	Prior to 12.7.01	From 12.7.01
Rice	1130	830
Wheat	830	610

Lifting of rice stock by FCI

2588. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for lifting of the stocks of rice by the Food Corporation of India, huge arrears of dues from the rice millers to the farmers has accumulated;

(b) the arrears of such dues to farmers as on April 30, 2001 in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Assam and other rice-growing States; and

(c) the amount released so far by the FCI to millers in different States, especially Andhra Pradesh?